

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

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If our British fellow-citizens want to honor the Queen's birthday by some special outlay of money, the subscription lists of the Victoria hospital will give them a good chance.

The memory of Marshal Bazaine, the "traitor of Metz" has at last been vindicated. Ex-Empress Eugenie confesses that she, as the Empress Regent, sent Bazaine the order to surrender. With remarkable chivalry Bazaine never made this defense but accepted exile and humiliation rather than involve the name of his sovereign in obloquy. The story, with its denouement, is one of the most romantic in history.

The announcement that delegates to the National Conventions pay their own expenses and get no rebates is reducing the number of party men who would go to Philadelphia and Kansas City to a corporal's guard. Happily the Republicans have two good men on the ground in the persons of Mr. Dillingham and Mr. Castle and it would be an easy way out for the Territorial convention to send them credentials and appoint two acceptable alternates, if they can be found, to serve in an emergency.

It would be charitable in some one to help the monotonous Bulletin to a few fresh adjectives. Just now and for a long time back the dreary little paper has used a single pair and overworked them against the Advertiser. We find that, in the last seven weeks, the Bulletin has called this journal "ponderous" thirty-seven times and "asinine" twenty-eight times. Its only substitute for these brilliant characterizations—a sort of last kick of expiring stupidity—is the phrase "official organ," which, during the same period, it has repeated forty-four times. It is painful to see such poverty of diction and for the sake of change we must advise the Bulletin to ponder the editorial comment of the Independent, a paper which is as much superior to its would-be rival in its command of the etymological resources of criticism as the Bulletin ought to be to the author of Simple Simon, who met the Pieman, going to the Fair.

Mr. Bryan is relying upon a variety of life. In a recent talk with a correspondent he said: "If we hold what we have and bring back the majority of the Gold Democrats and then secure a large addition from the Republican party, the chances for victory this year ought to be good." The case as thus put looks rather desperate for the Democratic leader. It is clear from the returns from the prosperity belts of the Middle West that he cannot hold thousands who voted for him in 1896. During 1898 and 1899 the Democrats lost, on the basis of State elections, twenty-eight of their electoral votes. They will have to make these up before they can reach the figures they lost by four years ago. As to the Gold Democrats who left the party because of the Chicago platform they are not going to be drawn back by a reaffirmation of it. Talk of inducing Republicans to leave their party when its promises have been fulfilled and its prospects are brightest, is of course idle. On the whole Mr. Bryan proves his cause to be in a bad way.

PRIMARY INSTRUCTION.

The desire of the native Hawaiians to learn the difference between Republicanism and Democracy is one that ought to be gratified by a campaign of education.

Democracy makes but one appeal to the Hawaiians and that is an appeal to their prejudices. It asks them for support because Grover Cleveland tried to restore the Queen but is careful not to remind them that he failed to carry out the agreement and that Democratic Senator Morgan was as effective a champion of the annexation movement on the Mainland as Democratic Dr. McGrew was here.

Republicanism appeals to the natives on the score of their best interests. It means that, whatever may happen to Island industry, there shall be no free trade to cut down every one's prosperity and reduce the poorer classes to actual want. It means that there shall be no demagogic assault upon the employing class, thus causing it to economize the money that now goes into circulation. Finally it means that there shall be no depreciated money by means of which the native or the white man, when he earns two dollars, may only get one.

McKinley Republicanism means good times for everybody who will work. Plenty to do, plenty of new enterprises, plenty of money in circulation. The record and the current programme of Democracy show that it is ready to destroy prosperity itself as it did in Buchanan's time and again in Cleveland's for the sake of some fantastic idea in economics or for political revenge. It is now proposing to strike at aggregate wealth not caring, if it succeeds, how much harm may be done to wage-earners or to individual incomes.

These are points that should be pressed upon the natives for all they

THE LOCAL LABOR QUESTION.

The need of getting plantation labor from other countries than Japan has been asserted for a long time past. Whenever field hands of any one nationality begin to preponderate in these Islands they grow uneasy and obstreperous; and strikes and other forms of mutiny result. Originally the Japanese were introduced to counteract the Chinese; now it becomes necessary, so the planters think, to find laborers who will counteract the Japanese. The latter are so numerous and have become so "cocky," as the phrase goes, that they are thought by some to be a potential source of danger. It is not a question of the supply being cut off. Doubtless an endless supply could be had, for coolies will come here as free laborers so long as work is offered, but that is not the point with the planters. People of a different sort are wanted.

Where shall they be found? Europe has been searched without much avail for suitable white labor. We have had Galicians, but want no more. Italians, despite Mr. Damon's earnest persuasions, prefer going to Mainland cities of the United States or to Argentina. Not much is expected of the Tyrolese. Perhaps more Portuguese could be got, but the planters are apparently not considering them. Instead we hear that they are about to investigate the supply of Porto Rican labor, with a view of bringing some thousands of Spanish negroes here.

This source of supply is not so far off, measuring the route from here to Porto Rico via Panama, and it would be easy to get at. Doubtless the Porto Ricans are cheap and not ambitious for creature comforts; but there are so many drawbacks named in connection with them that we hope sincerely that the planters will be able to find a better class of labor, and thus escape the necessity of making a rash experiment.

"If there is a worse racial combination anywhere than the Spaniard and the negro, history does not reveal it," said a recent English writer. "The half-breed inherits the vices of both ancestors, and the vices of the Spanish slave driver and the slave from the Guinea coast left very little to make the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah exceptional." The two points locally cited in favor of the Porto Rican laborers are that they have worked in sugar fields at home, and that they are in distress. But when we consider that the cane fields of Porto Rico have always been wretchedly tilled, and that distress does not make an undesirable neighbor any the less undesirable, we see that very much remains to be said to attest the wisdom of the mooted experiment. It is certainly a grave matter when we propose to add to the composite population of these Islands a class which has kept the West Indies in a ferment for three hundred years. "During all that time the Porto Rican has had to be held down with troops," says the authority quoted. "He is seditious, revengeful, suspicious, immoral and dissolute, and his one redeeming point is the laziness which keeps his vicious propensities from always striking twelve." If he were to do as badly in Hawaii as he always did at home when the vigilance of the troops was relaxed, he would be the worst investment in labor that Hawaii could make.

One special objection to the introduction of the Porto Rican is political. He may at any time be adjudged an American citizen; indeed a late Western decision veers strongly that way. Under our educational test he could not vote; but when one large class of American citizens is kept from the suffrage and another class is permitted to exercise it, we have the beginnings of bloody strife.

The Advertiser admits the difficulties of our situation. The sugar business must not lack for hands to carry it on and there are some unpleasant things about Japanese preponderance. But let us have a care that we do not jump from the frying pan into the fire. There are worse things than a scarcity of diversified field labor; easier remedies for Japanese overplus than an influx of West Indian peons. For ourselves we do not despair of the white co-operative method of tilling cane fields; certainly there are some propitious signs of success in the small Ewa experiment. Why should it not be wise to test the full capabilities of the co-operative plan before going farther afield? Assuredly white men who can endure farm work in the interior of California, Arizona and Utah would find the climate of Hawaii entirely to their taste. And considering the extra profits to be made here, the incentive for them to come would naturally be strong.

The Independent cannot doubt that the good Government Republicans are in a big majority over the machine Republicans here without admitting that the natives, who saved the machine men at the local primaries, are actually members of the Republican party—an assumption it has vigorously denied.

One Portuguese and one half-white appear in the Democratic Committee of Twenty-one. This is not a very big bid for these classes of support but it is the best our Democratic friends can make. Evidently the party of Bryan and Altgeld is not going to be overcrowded in Hawaii.

Democratic convention?" It depends. He certainly will if the nominee is acceptable to Mrs. Dewey.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

The Harpers Fifty Years Ago.

Nearly anything about the Harpers is of interest. Here is something that was written fifty-four years ago and published in a sort of directory: "Harper & Brothers are worth \$500,000. The firm consists of four brothers—James (formerly mayor of this city), John, Joseph W. and Fletcher. They are of a respectable family on Long Island, and, coming to this city, learned the printer's trade. James and John, under the firm name of J. & J. Harper, after their time was out, commenced doing job work and printing for publishers. The distinguished house of Collins, Keese & Co. (now Collins Bros.), large publishers of school-books, gave them employment. Getting out of work, they applied to the Collinses for advice as to what they should print. The Collinses gave them advice, and they published a work that was successful, followed up by another fortunate book, until at length they became publishers, and finally, their two other brothers being added, they enlarged their business under the firm of Harper & Brothers."

Filipino Servants.

"Out in the Philippines there are millions of good servants," said a returned soldier in a Boston newspaper interview the other day. "They would make the best in the world for us Americans, because they don't object to being servants. I am speaking, of course, of the lower classes of the Filipinos. The natives of wealth and education are exceeded in pride by none but a Spanish don. Not only the women, but the men, are glad of an opportunity to go into domestic service at wages that would seem absurdly low in this country. What can they do? Well, cook, sew, make beds, launder and keep a house tidy. To be sure, they don't do all things just as New England housewives would want them done, but one great charm about the Malay is his teachability. He can quickly learn to do anything commonplace, and many things above that plane. As a servant he is quick, regular, cheerful and respectful. No matter how absurd or misplaced the duties are that are thrust upon him, he performs them without audible comment."

A 2,000 Mile Dog Trip.

"It takes a lot of nerve to travel 2000 miles over ice with a dog team," said a traveler recently back from Cape Nome the other day. "but that was done during the winter by a man named Weightman. He was a prospector. One day he went back into the hills. Hundreds of prospectors had done the same thing, and had traveled over the course followed by him. They were never able to discover gold. Weightman came back that night, with apparently no better luck. The next day, however, the dog team was ready, and he started across the ice. We knew he had struck something, but could not tell what it was. In thirteen days more he was back. He immediately recorded his claim. It is one of the best paying properties on the cape. He told us that he had gone to San Francisco and had his samples analyzed. It showed \$1,000 to the ton. He said the trip across the ice was the hardest experience he had ever gone through and that he would not repeat it for all the gold in Alaska."

Arsenic's Queer Effects.

Though the effect of arsenic on the complexion has never been satisfactorily explained Dr. Armand Gautier, professor of chemistry to the faculty of Medicine at Paris, has recently communicated some facts which may, indirectly, throw light on the subject. He finds this metal in appreciable quantities in the skin and hair of persons who have not taken it either internally or as a cosmetic and he says it gets there because of the thyroid gland in the neck. The human body is, of course, not alchemist enough to manufacture arsenic, but how this gland attracts it from the atmosphere remains a mystery. However, there is a strange connection between certain metals and the organs of respiration. A writer in the Pall Mall Gazette, for instance, points out that the drug is eaten in large quantities by the Styrian and Dalmatian peasants, so that their lungs may support the refined air of the mountains.

The Blind Chaplain.

Every fine day in Washington, in one of the northwest sections, can be seen the pathetic figure of the Rev. Mr. William H. Milburn, the blind chaplain of the senate, walking for recreation. His duties at the capitol are brief, and these little outings are possible frequently. It is said of this veteran clergyman that he won his appointment years ago by his faithfulness to conscience in reproving a party of profane senators and representatives on a steamboat. They stopped playing cards and drinking and suggested that he should apply for the chaplaincy of the senate.

They Couldn't Have His Ring.

A story comes from South Africa which speaks well for the constancy of the British soldier. Among the wounded brought in one day from Potgieter's Drift was a man of scanty clothing who held something in his closed hand. He had kept his treasure in his hand for some eight hours. He showed it to the Sister at the hospital. It was a ring. In explanation he said: "My girl gave me this ring, and when I was hit I made up my mind the boers should never get it, so I kept it in my hand ready to swallow it if I was taken before our stretchers could reach me."

Queer Commodities.

Among the curious articles of commerce are toothpicks made of walrus whiskers, quantities of which are shipped from Alaska to Europe. Those who are engaged in the trade pick the whiskers out of the animals one by one with special tweezers. The toothpicks thus secured are used principally by the wealthier class in China and Russia, and are also beginning to come into favor in the most noted clubs in London.

Miles an Expert With His Gun.

General Nelson A. Miles never neglects his expertise at pistol practice,

"The Laborer is Worthy of His Hire."

But a wage-earner can get more for his personal services if in strong and vigorous health. The blood is the life-giving and strength-making part of the system. If it is pure, all is well; if not, it should be purified with Hood's Sarsaparilla, which makes the weak strong.

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